

## **Beginnings of European Transformation**

### **Focus:**

How did technological advances, growing prosperity, and revival of intellectual life change European society?

### **Objectives:**

- Describe effects of new technology that helped change European society
- Explain how prosperity and security affected feudal culture
- Identify the subjects that interested educated Europeans as intellectual life revived

### **Introduction:**

What are some technological developments that have caused social change?  
Suggest such technology that has affected our own society?

What main technological advances occurred in Europe around 1000, and how did these help change society?

### **Developing Understanding:**

Review Maps: *Geography and Resources of Europe* (p. 187), *Trade in Medieval Europe* (p. 203) and the print *Artisans at Work* (p. 204). Imagine you live in one of the towns identified on the map. Prepare a list of goods shipped from and to their “home” locality.

Read *A New Life in the Town* and describe what parallels found to modern business.

Using all available resources, review the role of Jewish merchants in medieval trade. *What gave Jewish merchants an important role in European trade? Explain.*

Explore key cause/effects of increased growth of towns and cities. Remember, increased food, products, and trade spurred growth and independence of towns and cities. Also note the importance of the charter of incorporation as a means of freeing towns from their feudal overlords. *In what ways did incorporated cities offer people more freedom?*

Discuss how this growth of cities helped break down feudal social order.

### **Conclusion:**

The decline of feudalism led to intellectual revival and a change in interests among the nobility.

- How did “chivalry” reflect a change in the role of feudal knights?
- How did changes in feudalism relate to poets or troubadours and courtly love?

